

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method for screening for compounds that increase the activity of estrogen related receptor (ERR) for expressing a medium-chain acyl CoA dehydrogenase (MCAD) gene, which method comprises:

- (1) contacting a test sample of cultured cells with a candidate compound, wherein said cultured cells express ERR;
- (2) contacting a control sample of said cultured cells with estrogen related receptor ligand 1 (ERRL1) and without the candidate compound;
- (3) measuring the activity of ERR for expressing the MCAD gene in the test sample and in the control sample;
- (4) wherein the candidate compound increasing the activity for expressing the MCAD gene to the same level as or a higher level than the control sample is a compound that increases the activity of estrogen related receptor (ERR) for expressing a medium-chain acyl CoA dehydrogenase (MCAD) gene.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the cultured cells are obtained from an established human or non-human cell line; from tissue of a human or non-human animal body and appropriately maintained in a culture condition.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the cultured cells are obtained from cells selected from the group consisting of: (1) adipocyte cells, (2) yeast cells; (3) bacterial cells; (4) cells transfected with ERRL1 cDNA and/or ERR cDNA; and (5) isolated animal cells, such as BAT, heart, skeletal muscle, or kidney, in which ERRL1 protein is highly expressed.